

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NIC-01 ACDA-19 IO-12 EB-11 STR-08

EA-11 NEA-10 GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CU-04 RSR-01 /163 W

----- 129402

O R 061335 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5929

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 0924

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, FI, SU

SUBJ: FINNISH AND SOVIET PRESIDENTS ADDRESS MAIN FINNISH-  
SOVIET PACT FETE

REF: HELSINKI 852

BEGIN SUMMARY. SPPECHES BY PRESIDENTS KEKKONEN AND PODGORNYY AT  
APRIL 4 CELEBRATION OF THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FINNISH-  
SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY WENT SUPRISINGLY FURTHER THAN THE  
CLICHES USUALLY EXCHANGED ON SUCH CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS. KEKKONEN  
DWELLED ON THE UNSUCCESSFUL PRE- WAR AND EVENTUAL POSTWAR DIP-  
LOMATIC CONTACTS WHICH FORMED THE BACKGROUND TO THE TREATY,  
NOTING THAT THE 1948 AGREEMENT CONTAINED MOST OF THE POINTS AD-  
VANCED EARLIER BY THE SOVIETS. THIS RECASTING, IF NOT REWRITING,  
OF THE ORIGINS OF THE WINTER WAR PORTRAYED THE FINNISH STATES-  
MEN OF THE TIME AS UNENLIGHTENED ABOUT THE DEFENSIVE NEEDS OF THE  
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SOVIET UNION. OMISSION OF ANY REFERENCE TO THE STALIN- HITLER PACT OR EVEN IMPLIED CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET POSITION WOULD GIVE CAUSE FOR ANY ONE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE PRE- WAR EVENTS TO ASK, " WHO ATTACKED WHOM?" KEKKONEN THEN POINTED WITH PRIDE TO FINLAND' S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY, BASED ON THE TREATY, WHICH HAD PERMITTED FINLAND A " PIONEERING" ROLE IN HOSTING THE MPT FOR THE CSCE AND TO BE THE FIRST NON- SOCIALIST COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE EAST GERMANY. HE ALSO PROMISED INCREASED FINNISH- SOVIET TRADE AS PART OF FINLAND' S OVERALL FOREIGN TRADE ARRANGEMENT. PODGORNYY PRAISED KEKKONEN' S FOREIGN POLICY AND HIS FUNDAMENTAL RECONSTRUCTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, NOTED FINLAND' S " ASPIRATIONS" TO PURSUE A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY, EXPRESSED SOVIET EXPECTATION THAT A CSCE WOULD BE CONVENED IN HELSINKI IN A FEW MONTHS, REITERATED THE STANDARD SOVIET THEME ON INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS AS A MUST FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY, DESCRIBED THE VIETNAM SETTLEMENT AS PROOF OF HEALTHY ATTITUDES, AND CALLED FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ON UN TERMS. THE PRESIDENTS HAVE SET ASIDE A NUMBER OF HOURS FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE DESCRIBED TO THE PUBLIC AS BEING OF A GENERAL NATURE. THE REMAINDER OF PODGORNYY' S PROGRAM APPEARS TO BE MORE OR LESS ROUTINE FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT, ALBEIT IMBELLISHED WITH ANCILLARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE TREATY ANNIVERSARY. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND PRESIDENT PODGORNYY WERE THE SPEAKERS AT THE MAIN CELEBRATION OF THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FINNISH- SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION AT FINLANDIA HOUSE ON APRIL 4. THE AUDIENCE, WHICH DID NOT QUITE FILL THE HALL, WAS MADE UP OF THE TOP SLICE FROM THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, YOUTH AND MILITARY SEGMENTS OF FINNISH SOCIETY, A LIBERAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE FAR- LEFT AND THE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WHILE THE SPECTATORS APPLAUDED ENERGETICALLY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SPEECHES, THEY OTHERWISE APPEARED RATHER UNRESPONSIVE TO THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH WERE CARRIED ON TV.

2. KEKKONEN SPEECH: PRESIDENT KEKKONEN DWELLED ON THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH LED TO THE SIGNING  
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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

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4. PODGORNYY SPEECH: THE SOVIET PRESIDENT PRAISED THE TREATY AS A STABILIZING FACTOR IN FINNISH- SOVIET RELATIONS AND LAUDED THE ROLE OF FORMER PRESIDENT PAASIKIVI AND PRESIDENT KEKKONEN IN BRINGING ABOUT THE " FUNDAMENTAL RECONSTRUCTION" OF RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE TREATY. HE ASSERTED THAT DURING THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY NO PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH WERE NOT SOLVED IN A BENEVOLENT ATMOSPHERE AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. DISCUSSING THE MERITS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PODGORNYY DECLARED THAT WITH THE 1972 AGREEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND THE LONG- TERM PROGRAM FOR ITS REALIZATION, FINLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE ENTERED A NEW STAGE OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE DRAFT AGREEMENT FINLAND HAS CONCLUDED WITH COMECON, WHICH HE SAID DOES NOT LEAD TO A LIMITATION OF THE POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES. TAKING A SWIPE AT THE CRITICS OF FINNISH- SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, PODGORNYY CLAIMED THAT " THEY OFFER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTHING BUT A RETURN TO THE PAST WHICH HAS BEEN DETERMINEDLY ABANDONED BY OUR PEOPLES." PODGORNYY DESCRIBED THE TREATY AS ONE WHICH GUARANTEES THE SECURITY OF FINLAND AS WELL AS THE NORTHERN FRONTIERS OF THE SOVIET UNION, AND IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHERN EUROPE AND FOR THE LESSENING OF TENSIONS IN ALL OF EUROPE.

5. FINLAND'S " ASPIRATIONS TO REALIZE A PEACEFUL POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IN THE INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES" WERE NOTED

BY THE SOVIET LEADER. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN ALSO RECEIVED KUDOS FOR VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES, SPECIAL MENTION BEING MADE OF HIS NORDIC NUCLEAR FREE- ZONE PROPOSAL, EFFORTS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD RELATING TO THE BALTIC SEA, AND THE CONVENING IN HELSINKI OF THE PREPARATORY TALKS ON A CSCE, WHICH PODGORNYY SAID THE SOVIETS BELIEVE HAVE CREATED ALL PREMISES FOR THE OPENING OF A FULL CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THIS DAWNING OF A NEW ERA IN EUROPE' S POSTWAR HISTORY WILL, HE SAID, BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NAME OF THE FINNISH CAPITAL. PODGORNYY WENT ON TO STATE THAT " UNANIMITY IS CLEARLY BEING INCREASINGLY REACHED THAT EUROPEAN SECURITY MUST BE BASED ON THE INVIO- LABILITY OF NATIONAL FRONTIERS; NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS; INDEPENDENCE; EQUALITY; AND NONUSE OR THREAT OF FORCE." THESE PRINCIPLES, HE SAID, SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE PLANNING THE CSCE.

6. TURNING TO AREAS BEYOND EUROPE, PODGORNYY DESCRIBED THE VIETNAM SETTLEMENT AS ONE OF THE MOST CONVINCING PROOFS THAT HEALTHY ATTITUDES, BASED ON REALITIES, ARE ALSO GAINING GROUND ELSEWHERE, AND WARNED THAT THE SOVIET UNION DEMANDS A FIRM AND STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, CAUSED BY ISRAEL' S AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITY, WAS ALSO NOTED AS A THREAT TO PEACE, AND PODGORNYY CALLED FOR ALL STATES TO SUPPORT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL' S 1967 MIDEAST RESOLUTION.

7. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND PODGORNYY HAVE SET ASIDE A NUMBER OF HOURS FOR DISCUSSIONS WHICH, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN PART BY THE TWO MEN ALONE. PRESS SOURCES RELATE THAT DISCUSSIONS WILL TOUCH ON ALL MAJOR INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, WITH EMPHASIS ON EUROPEAN SECURITY, AND FINNISH- SOVIET TRADE. OTHERWISE THE SOVIET VISITOR' S PROGRAM SO FAR HAS CONSISTED OF THE USUAL FACTORY VISITS AND CEREMONIALS, THE LATTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPANDED SOMEWHAT TO INCLUDE HOMAGE TO LENIN AT THE HOUSE IN HELSINKI IN WHICH HE ONCE LIVED AND AT THE GRAVE OF MAUNO PEKKALA, FINLAND' S COMMUNIST PRIME MINISTER IN THE IMMEDIATE POST- WAR PERIOD. THE VARIOUS ANCILLARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY ALSO PRESUMABLY ADD A BIT OF COLOR TO THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE SOVIET LEADER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

8. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: WHILE BOTH SPEECHES CONTAINED STIRRING CATALOGS OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN POSTWAR FINNISH- SOVIET RELATIONS, AT LEAST IN THE MINDS OF THE ORATORS, NEITHER PROVIDED MUCH OF A GLIMPSE INTO THE NEW ERA BOTH SEEMED TO SEE AHEAD. A CLEAR- CUT SOVIET ENDORSEMENT OF FINNISH NEUTRALITY, SO LONG SOUGHT BY THE FINNS, WAS STILL NOT FORTHCOMING. NOR DID PODGORNYY' S SPEECH CONTAIN A HINT OF SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD FINLAND' S PENDING FREE- TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMON

MARKET. KEKKONEN'S HISTORICAL SURVEY WILL, IN ANY CASE, CAUSE  
RIPPLES FOR SOME TIME TO COME. FULL TEXT OF SPPEECHES BEING  
TRNASMITTED BY AIRGRAM.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** PFOR, FI, SU  
**To:** COPENHAGEN  
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MOSCOW  
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OSLO  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
STOCKHOLM

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